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A polyester resin is prepared by condensing dimethyl terephthalate and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol where the polyester has an inherent viscosity of less than 0.80 dl/gm in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend and the 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol reactant contains 75 to 100 % of its cis-isomer. This resin can be melt-cast to a film support suitable for motion picture film. Such film is particularly advantageous, because it can be formed without cracking, easily cut and perforated, will not be deleteriously affected by the presence of dust and splinters, and is made without adverse environmental effects.

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POLYESTER FILM BASE FOR MOTION PICTURE FILM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a polyester resin prepared by condensing either terephthalic acid or dimethyl terephthalate and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol which is useful as a support for motion picture film.

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

For many years, solvent-based cellulose triacetate film has been used as a photographic film support. Its physical characteristics and the 10 dimensional uniformity and surface quality imparted by solvent casting have made cellulose triacetate the first choice for many photographic films.

Despite the excellent photographic properties of solvent-cast cellulose triacetate film, environmental concerns about solvents conventionally used in the casting of the films have created a need for a new method of manufacturing of cellulose triacetate films or for a new kind of photographic film support.

Unfortunately, cellulose triacetate cannot be melt-cast,

20 because its melting point is above its decomposition temperature. As for solvent casting of cellulose triacetate, no new solvents have been found which are more acceptable than the conventional ones.

One possible way to eliminate solvents is to

- 25 melt cast a thermally stable polymer such as poly(ethylene terephthalate). Indeed, this type of polymer is used commercially for the manufacture of supports for photographic sheet films such as x-ray films and graphic arts films. It is not suitable,
- 30 however, for many kinds of photographic films. As a motion pictur film support, poly(thyl n terephthalat) is particularly unsuitable, b caus, wh n poly(ethylene ter phthalate) film is cut into strips and

punched with p rforations, the film splinters and crumbles. As a result, such film has a high degr e of particulate contamination. Moreov r, poly(ethylen terephthalate) film is so tough that when punching and 5 cutting it, punches and knives for such operations are rapidly worn. Consequently, manufacturing equipment must be shut down to replace the punches and knives. Still another problem with regard to the use of a poly(ethylene terephthalate) film base for motion

10 picture films is that the toughness of the film prevents the film from breaking under certain conditions where film breakage is preferable to the damage the projector will otherwise suffer. Therefore, poly(ethylene terephthalate) film is difficult to use in motion

15 picture films.

Esters of cellulose hydroxyl groups made over a wide range with both single and mixed acids have been used for a variety of different purposes. Cellulose diacetate (DS_{ac} = 2.45), unlike the triacetate, has a

- 20 sufficiently low melting point that, with adequate plasticizer addition, it can be melt extruded. Mixed esters, or triacetates having their acetyl groups replaced with propionic or butyric groups can accomplish the same purposes. However, such cellulose ester
- 25 compositions with lower acetyl content than the triacetate are deficient in properties that are necessary for photographic roll film supports, most notably stiffness and heat distortion temperature. In addition, the plasticizers and flame retardants used in
 - 30 commercial melt-processable cellulose esters are volatile at extrusion temperatures and generate aerosols which can condense and create surface defects on the film.
 - U.S. Pat nt No. 2,901,466 to Kibler ("Kibler")
 - 35 disclos s linear polyest rs prepared by condensing 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol with one or mor bi-functional

reactants, including terephthalic acid. Kibler suggests using such polym rs as photographic film supports in general but makes no mention of motion picture film in particular. Both cis-or trans-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol are disclosed by Kibler but, when large quantities (over 50%) of the cis-isomer are utilized, the resulting polymer has a very high inherent viscosity. As a result, films made from these polyesters have a higher percentage of break elongation which makes them more difficult to cut or perforate. Kibler's polyester films have lower inherent viscosities only when a low cis-isomer level is employed. Films with such cis-isomer levels are unsuitable for motion picture film, because they have high crystallization

without cracking.

In view of the above-discussed deficiencies of currently-available film, there remains a great need for a melt-castable film having properties suitable for photographic film supports, particularly for motion picture film.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a polyester

25 film prepared by condensing dimethyl terephthalate and
1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol where the resulting polyester
has an inherent viscosity of preferably less than 0.80
decaliter ("dl")/gram in a 60:40
phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend and the
phenol/tetrachloroethanol contains 75% to 100% of its
cis-isomer. This resin is useful for forming a
polyester film support for photographic films,
particularly motion picture film.

The polyest r films of th present invention

35 ar r adily slit, without dulling knif dges, to widths suitabl for photographic film. Furth r, the dges of

the film are perforated without dulling th operative portion of the punching devic. Due to the ase with which such films are cut and perforated, the resulting motion picture film is generally free from impurities caused by cracking and splintering. In addition to these advantages, such polyester films can be cast without creating environmental hazards.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- In preparing the polyester resins of the present invention, dimethyl terephthalate or terephthalic acid and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol are polymerized by conventional condensation reactions which are well known in the art. Typically, this reaction
- 15 involves reacting the dimethyl terephthalate and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol in a vessel by heating the vessel contents to a temperature of 200° to 220°C, preferably 220°C, to melt the reactants. After melting is completed, the vessel's contents are further heated
- 20 to 285° to 295°C, preferably 290°C. Polycondensation is carried out at 290°C using a pressure of less than 0.3 mm Hg for 25 to 35 minutes. The reaction is then terminated.

Dimethyl terephthalate or its acid derivative

- 25 is conventionally available from a variety of sources.

 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is also commercially available from Eastman Chemical Co., Kingsport, Tennessee under the trade name EASTMAN CHDM-D. However, such commercial grades of 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol contain about 30% of
- 30 the cis-isomer and about 70% of the trans- isomer. The cis-isomer is recovered by dissolving this mixture in a solvent to crystallize out the trans-isomer. The remaining cis-1,4-cycloheranedimethanol is separated by vacuum distillation to yield 90 to 95%, pr ferably 95%,
- 35 cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol. The crystallization solvent can b thyl ac tat and other similar solvents,

such as isopropanol and diethyl ether. The r sulting 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol has 75 to 100%, preferably 90 to 95%, of the cis- isomer with the balance being the trans- isomer.

- The condensation reaction is advantageously facilitated by use of a catalyst. Suitable catalysts include titanium tetraisopropoxide, acetyl triisopropyl titanate, dibutyltin diacetate, butyltin stannoic acid, dibutyltin dilaurate, gallium lactate, germanium dioxide calcium acetate, and manganese diacetate with titanium
- 10 calcium acetate, and manganese diacetate with titalium tetraisopropoxide being particularly preferred. Such catalysts are usually dispersed in a solvent with the solvent composition containing 0.20 to 1.50, preferably 0.50, percent of the dispersed catalyst. Suitable
- 15 solvents include butanol, ethylene glycol, acetone and mixtures thereof. When catalytically promoting the condensation reaction of the present invention, the solvent with dispersed catalyst is added to the reaction vessel at the same time as the reactants.
- 20 The molar ratio of the dimethyl terephthalate and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol reactants is 1:1.20 to 1:1.50, perferably 1:1.25. When using terephthalic acid, the ratio should be 1:1.10 to 1:1.40, preferably 1:1.20. Although dimethyl terephthalate and
- 25 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol theoretically react in a 1:1 molar ratio, it is preferable to utilize an excess of 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol to facilitate complete ester exchange or to obtain high conversion. When such reaction ratios are utilized under the above reaction
- 30 conditions, the number average molecular weight of the resulting polyester is 20,000 to 35,000 grams/mole, preferably 25,000 grams/mole.

The resulting polyester has an inherent viscosity of less than 0.80, preferably 1 ss than 0.65, 35 dl/gm in a 60:40 ph nol/tetrachloroethan solvent

blend. In addition, the polyester should have a crystalline melt point of 230°C to 295°C, pref rably 240°C.

The resulting polymer from the above-discussed condensation reaction, is ground, pulverized, or pelletized to a form from which a film of such material can be produced. Techniques of forming films from such polyester material are well known in the art. In such processes, the polyester is first charged to a screw

- 10 conveyor where they are heated to a melt at a temperature of 230°C to 315°C, preferably 270°C. The screw then conveys the melt through an extruder die from which it drops on to a revolving polished drum as a film. The drum is cooled so that as the film passes
- sheet. Generally, the extruded film has a melt temperature of 230°C to 320°C, preferably 270°C, when it first contacts the cooled drum, and the cooled film separates from the drum at a quenching temperature of
- 20 20°C to 100°C, preferably 80°C. A significant advantage of the polyester resin of the present invention is that, when it is cast, the resulting film has a low crystallization temperature (i.e., less than 180°C, preferably 158°C) compared to such polyesters with lower
- 25 cis- isomer contents. The lower crystallization temperature of the polyester films of the present invention causes them to begin crystallizing at a later point in their travel around the cooling drum. With drum speed, quenching temperature, and film-urum
- 30 separation locations all being constant, the polyester film of the present invention undergoes crystallization for less time (and, therefore, to a lesser extent) than films made from resins with lower levels of the cis-1,4-cyclohexan dimethanol isomer. As a result, the
- 35 poly st r films of the pres nt inv ntion can be subs qu ntly biaxially orient d without b coming too brittle.

After the film 1 av s the cooling drum, it must be biaxially stretch d to a thickness of 2 mils to 7 mils, preferably 5.6 mils. Biaxially stretching requires that the film be simultaneously stretched in 5 both the transverse and machine directions using well-known techniques or separately and sequentially treated in this fashion. When separately stretching a film in these directions, it can be stretched in the transverse and machine directions in either order. In 10 the transverse direction, the film is stretched by 3 to 5 times, preferably 3, times, while it is stretched in the machine direction by 2 to 4 times, preferably 3.4, times. During such stretching, the film is maintained at a temperature of 80°C to 140°C, preferably 80 to 15 120°C.

Following biaxial stretching, the film's stretched dimensions are set by heating it to a temperature of 175°C to 240°C, preferably 200 to 220°C, for 2 to 20 seconds, preferably 4 seconds.

- The resulting film has properties which enable it to be cut and punched without undue force. These 20 properties include: a percentage of elongation of 20 to 50%, preferably less than 40% and a cut force of less than 50 lbs., preferably less than 40 lbs.
 - In the form of a film, the polyester resin of the present invention is suitable as a support for 25 photographic film, particularly motion picture film. Such photographic film is prepared by melting a dispersion of a photographically-sensitized gelatin,
 - 30 applying the gelatin to the surface of the film, and allowing the sensitized-gelatin to solidify. Generally, a plurality of layers should be applied. The photographic film can then be cut into strips of suitable width and perforated without dulling knife 35 blades or punching devic s.

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - Polyester of 95%/5% cis/trans 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and dimethyl terephthalate.

2,000 grams of a 30%/70% cis/trans mixture of 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, commercially available under the trademark EASTMAN CHDM-D was dissolved in ethyl acetate. After the trans- isomer was crystallized out of solution, the remaining ethyl acetate-cis/trans mixture of 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol was separated by vacuum distillation leaving a product comprising 95% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and 5% trans-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol.

To a 500 ml single-neck flask was charged 97.0g (0.5 mole) of dimethyl terephthalate, 90.0g (0.5 mole

- 15 plus 25 mole percent excess) of the 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol (95% cis), and 0.99 ml of a 1.04% solution of titanium tetraisopropoxide in n-butanol. The flask, fitted with a metal stirrer, a nitrogen inlet, and a volatiles outlet, was immersed in
- 20 a Belmont metal bath at 220°C. The mixture was heated and stirred under a nitrogen blanket at 220°C until a clear solution was obtained. The bath temperature was then increased from 220° to 290°C over a period of 20 minutes. The reaction was then subjected to a vacuum
- 25 (<0.3 mmHg) for 30 to 40 minutes and returned to atmospheric pressure with nitrogen. After cooling to ambient temperature, the resulting white opaque polymeric solid was then removed from the flask.

 The inherent viscosity of the polymer was

30 measured by adding 0.5 grams of it to a 125 ml
Erlenmeyer flask and then adding 100 ml of a 60%/40%
mixture of phenol/tetrachloroethane. The flask was
placed on a laboratory hot plate and heated from 23°C to
125°C whil being stirred for a period f 10 minutes.

35 The flask was plac d on a second hot plat and h ld at 125°C for 5 minutes. The mixtur was cooled t 23°C and

filter d. The solution was passed through a modifi d Wagner capillary viscometer at 23°C, which show d an inherent viscosity of .78 dl/gm in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.

- The polyester was also analyzed to determine its crystalline melting point. This analysis involved adding 10 to 20 mg of the polymer (ground to pass through a 4 mm screen) to an aluminum pan, sealing the pan, placing it in the sample head of a DuPont
- 10 Instruments 912 Differential Scanning Calorimeter ("DSC") fitted with a DSC autosampler. The first DSC cycle scan was started at 23°C and heated at 20°/min. to 350°C under a nitrogen sweep of 120 cc/min. After the sample was quenched and cooled to room temperature,
- 15 second and third DSC cycle scans were conducted. DSC traces were then plotted using a DuPont 9900 Computer Thermal Analyzer. As a result of this processing, the polyester was found to have a crystalline melting point of 251°C, a crystallization temperature on heating of
- 20 120°C, a crystallization temperature on cooling of 168°C, and a glass transition point of 76.0°C.

Poly(ethylene terephthalate) film sold under the trade name ESTAR sold by Eastman Chemical Co., Kingsport, Tennessee has a crystallization temperature

- 25 on cooling of 167°C. Consequently, the resin made by the process of Example 1 achieves the same low level of crystallization (and, consequently, the same low level of film cracking) as the poly(ethylene terephthalate) resin widely used in the film-making industry. As
- demonstrated below, the resins of Examples 2-4, which contain higher levels of trans-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, do not achieve such favorable results, because they have higher degree of crystallinity, a higher melting point, and a higher
- 35 crystallization t mp rature on cooling.

Example 2 - Polyester of 60.1%/39.9% cis/trans 1,4-cycloh xanedimethanol and dimethyl terephthalate 60.1%/39.9% cis/trans 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol

was obtained by mixing 300 grams of the

5 commercially-available 30%/70% cis/trans

1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol used as a starting material in Example 1 with 300 grams of the 95%/5% cis/trans

1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol product of Example 1. The polymerization process described in

10 Example 1 was then repeated except that 90.0 grams of the 60.1%/39.9% cis/trans 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol was used instead of the 95%/5% cis/trans 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and the polycondensation reaction temperature was raised from 220° to 305°C

15 instead of from 220°C to 290°C.

The resulting white opaque solid polyester had a crystalline melting point of 260°C, a crystallization temperature on cooling of 186°C, and an inherent viscosity of 0.74 dl/gm in a 60:40

20 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.

- Example 3 Polyester of 60.3%/39.7% cis/trans 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and dimethyl terephthalate 60.3%/39.7% cis/trans 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol
- . 25 was prepared in substantially the same fashion as the 60.1%/39.9% cis/trans blend of Example 2. polycondensation process described in Example 1 was then repeated. The polycondensation reaction temperature was kept at 305°C. The resulting white opaque solid
 - 30 polyester had a crystalline melting point of 257°C, a crystalization temperature on cooling of 169°C, and an inherent viscosity of .75 dl/gm in 60:40 a ph nol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.
 - 35 Example 4 Polyester of 29.1%/70.9% cis/trans 1,4-cycloh xan dim thanol and dimethyl ter phthalate

35

Commercially available 30% cis/70% trans
1,4-cycloh xanedimethanol and dim thyl terephthalat
were polycondensed at 310°C. The resulting white opaqu
solid polyester had a crystalline melting point of
294°C, a crystallization temperature on cooling of
240°C, and an inherent viscosity of 0.76 dl/gm in a
60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.

From Examples 1-4, it is easily seen that the crystallization temperature on cooling decreases

10 significantly with increases in cis1,4-cyolohexanedimethanol content.

Example 5 - Film Manufacture

The polyester resins of Examples 1-4 were made

15 into films by melting the resins to the temperatures in

Table 1, extruding the melted resin in sheet form with a

Brabender extruder on to a cool roller having a

temperature according to Table 1, biaxially orienting

the extruded sheet in a T.M. Long machine at the

20 orientation temperatures and stretch ratios in Table 1,

and heat setting the film for 2 minutes in a forced-air

oven with a metal heatset frame at the temperatures

shown Table 1.

25			TABLE	L		
23		Extrusion Temp (°C)	Roller Temp (°C)	Orien- tation Temp (°C)	Stretch Ratio	Heat Set Temp (°C)
30	Ex.1 Polyeste Ex.2 Polyeste Ex.3 Polyeste Ex.4 Polyeste	285 z	75 105 105 105	95 104 104 110	3X by 3X 3X by 3X 3X by 3X 3X by 3X	220 230 230 240

After these films were prepared, their properties were evaluated with an Instron tensile t ster, and thes results are s t forth in Table 2.

TABLE _2

	Film	Break Elongation	Young's Modulus of Elasticity (psi)	Toughness (inlb./cubic inch)
5	Ex. 1 Polyester Ex. 2 Polyester Ex. 3 Polyester Ex. 4 Polyester	34%	5.3 x 10 ⁵ 4.4 x 10 ⁵ 4.7 x 10 ⁵ 4.8 x 10 ⁵	8,100 13,900 10,300 12,600

The relatively low break elongation of the film made from the resin of Example 1 shows that it is less brittle than the other films and, therefore, less likely to generate dirt during cutting. The high Young's

15 Modulus of Elasticity of the film made from the polyester resin of Example 1 shows it is stiffer, thereby permitting the film to be made thinner and still achieve a desired stiffness. Finally, the relatively low toughness of the resin of Example 1 shows that it is 20 easier to cut.

These film samples as well as those produced from the poly(ethylene terephthalate) resin and either designated as C89-5 or sold by Eastman Chemical Co., Kingsport, Tennessee under the ESTAR trade name were

- 25 tested in a laboratory chopper. Samples of these films were placed on a lower stationary knife with the sample's forward end extending slightly beyond this knife edge. An upper knife, positioned relative to the lower knife to form a shearing zone, is driven
- pneumatically at 15 inches per second toward the lower knife. A strain gauge attached to the lower knife monitors force readings. The distance travelled by the lower knife before the film cracks (i.e. knife elongation) is measured by an optical device. From the
- 35 cutting force and knife elongation, an energy level is calculated. Table 3 summarizes these results.

TABLE 3

Film	Cutting Force (lbs.)	Knife Elongation (mils)	En rgy (inlbs.)
Ex. 1 Polyester Ex. 2 Polyester Ex. 3 Polyester Ex. 4 Polyester 10 ESTAR C89-5	35.6 36.2	3.0 2.6 2.9 2.9 4.8 6.2	0.04 0.03 0.04 0.04 0.09

The results of Table 3 show that films made

15 from the resin of Example 1 (as well as those made from
the resins of Examples 2-4) are much easier to cut than
films made from poly(ethylene terephthalate).

Although the invention has been described in detail for the purpose of illustration, it is understood

20 that such detail is solely for that purpose, and variations can be made therein by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention which is defined by the following claims.

WE CLAIM:

- 1. A polyest r resin pr par d by condensing reactants consisting essentially of either terephthalic acid or dimethyl terephthalate and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, wherein said polyester has an inherent viscosity of less than 0.80 dl/gram in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend and said 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is 75 to 100% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol.
- 2. A polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein the inherent viscosity is less than 0.65 dl/gram in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.
- 3. A polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein said 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is 94 to 100% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol.
- 1 4. A polyester film sheet formed from a polyester resin prepared by condensing reactants consisting essentially of either terephthalic acid or dimethyl terephthalate and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, wherein said polyester has an inherent viscosity of less than 0.80 dl/gram in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend and said 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is 75 to 100% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol.
 - 5. A polyester film according to claim 4, wherein the inherent viscosity is less than 0.65 dl/gram in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.
 - 6. A polyester film according to claim 4, wherein said 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is 94 to 100% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol.

- 7. A polyester film according to claim 4, wher in said film has a crystallization temperatur of less than 180°C.
- 8. A polyester film according to claim 4, wherein said film has a cut force of less than 40 lbs.
- 9. A polyester film according to claim 4, wherein said film has a toughness below 8500 in.-lb./cubic inch.
- 1 10. A polyester film according to claim 4, wherein said film is biaxially oriented and heat set.
- 1 ll. A polyester film according to claim 10, wherein said film has been stretched by 2.5 to 5.0 times in the transverse direction.
- 1 12. A polyester film according to claim 10, wherein said film has been stretched by 2.5 to 5.0 times in the machine direction.
- 1 13. A perforated motion picture film comprising:
 - a polyester film support prepared by condensing reactants consisting essentially of either terephthalic acid or dimethyl terephthalate and
 - 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, said polyester has an inherent viscosity of less than 0.80 dl/gm in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend and said 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is 75 to 100% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and
 - a coating over said support, wherein said coating compris s one or mor silver halide-containing layers.

- 14. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein the inherent viscosity is less than 0.65 dl/gm in a 60:40 phenol/tetrachloroethane solvent blend.
- 1 15. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein said 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol is 94 to 100% cis-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol.
- 1 16. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein said polyester film has a crystallization temperature of less than 180°C.
 - 17. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein said polyester film has a cut force of less than 40 lbs.
 - 18. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein said polyester film has à toughness below 8500 in.-lb./cubic inch.
 - 19. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein said polyester film is biaxially oriented and heat set.
 - 20. A motion picture film according to claim 13, wherein layers are layers of gelatin in which silver halide grains are dispersed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

CLASSIFICATI N OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶ According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC [n+ C] 5		92/01178
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